NITE-TIMES NEWS

CHICAGO AREA TIMEX USERS GROUP

MEMORY MAP

C.A.T.U.G. CLUB OFFICERS

Here is the list of 1992 club officers and how to contact them. The club has two strong SIGS, SPECTRUM/TS2068 and QL. If you have questions about either of these fine machines or even the ZX81/TS1000/TS1500 call one of the officers.   C=312, S=708.

POSITION	NAME	PHONE	PRIMARY FUNCTION
President	Nazir Pashtoon	S439-1679	The buck stops here...
Vice-President	Steve Cooper	S968-3553	Meeting Planning, etc.
Secretary	Al Feng	S971-0495	Records and Reporting
Treasurer	Frank Mills	S544-1918	Dues and Purchasing
Editor	Bob Swoger	S576-8068	Newsletter, BBS, etc.

𝕹𝖎𝖙𝖊-𝕿𝖎𝖒𝖊𝖘 Information

𝕿𝖍𝖊 𝕹𝖎𝖙𝖊-𝕿𝖎𝖒𝖊𝖘 𝕹𝖊𝖜𝖘 is the newsletter of the Chicago Area Timex Users Group. For an annual fee of $12.00 you can become a CATUG member with full membership privileges. Send your dues to:

**CATUG TREASURER FRANK MILLS
417 S 47th AVE
BELLWOOD IL 60104**

The Chicago Area Timex Users Group is pleased to exchange newsletters with other Timex and Sinclair supporting users groups at no charge. Send all newsletter requests to:

**CATUG EDITOR BOB SWOGER
613 PARKSIDE CIRCLE
STREAMWOOD IL 60107-1647**

If you desire to reprint any articles that appear here, please provide credit to the author and this newsletter.

We encourage your user group to copy this newsletter and distribute it at your regular meetings to your members free of any charge as we believe that this will encourage better meeting attendance. If you are a user group that feels as we do, please let us know in your newsletter so that we might do this for our members and keep our attendance up.

Articles originating from our group may be downloaded from our BBS and reprinted.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Al Feng
John Shepard
Frank Mills
Bob Swoger, K9WVY

CLUB MEETINGS

The Chicago Area Timex Users Group meets on the THIRD Saturday of each month at the home of our meeting coordinator Steve Cooper in Downers Grove, Illinois from 1:00 to 5:00 PM.

Steve's home is lovingly called the CLUB HOUSE and is located at 1300 Maple Street in Downers Grove just 2 blocks southwest of the Downers Grove Public Library. Steve should be contacted evenings at 708/968-3553. to confirm the meeting schedule.

When visiting be careful of the Dutch Dooooooooorrrrrrr.......

TREA$URY NOTE$

The balance as of July 1, 1992 is $289.05 Our current paid membership stands at 18.

Frank Mills, Treasurer
Chicago Area Timex Users Group

FROM THE EDITORS DISK

The situation of QUANTA mentioned in past issues of NTN and ZXir QLive Alive! has come up continuously. Poles have been taken and the general consensus among the PAID MEMBERS of T/SNUG is to try, whenever possible, to clean up matters that pertain to our Sinclair community. Better that we bring them out and get them fixed before others get hurt and drop out, making our Sinclair users an even smaller group! At this time CANADA doesn't want to do business with a U.S. vendor and the U.S. folks can't do business with a CANADIAN vendor.

We users are the losers because there is some really good stuff out there in CANADA and we can't get it! We have the bucks to spend which could mean hundreds for the vendors, but we can't do business until matters get cleaned up! If you are willing to write about these problems, your opinions shall be printed.

My thought is, if you can't take the flack, don't make any, or correct the problems and get back to your customers. We users need our vendors!

Bob Swoger, Editor
Chicago Area Timex Users Group

SECRETARY'S NOTEPAD

LATE SPRING CAT MINTS

Downers Grove, May 16, '92
Bob was apparently flying without a co-pilot or navigator in May; and consequently, he failed to attend the scheduled meeting. This was just hours after having spoken to Abed!

Being rudderless, Al and Nazir let/(led) the conversation (that) degenerate(d) to world politics, you know: Right vs. Wrong (Wrong vs. Right?). The Sunday-Christianity of the "democracy" promulgated by the fascist-in-disguise, Republican party vs. the "Godless Communism" of you know who(m) ...

... Power to a Capitalist elite with its trickle-on policies vs. the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

It's never a really clear cut picture, is it?

We did discuss some computer related topics, including a *carte blanche* invitation to Frank & Carol Davis to come on over for a show-and-tell get together as vendor (yes, Bob, that is the correct spelling), publishers, vendor, and fellow Sinclairists.

Nazir had already spoken to Frank about the possibility of their making the sojourn up to our parts, and Frank said that they would be greatly aided toward that end if we could supply him with a map of the immediate local area where we meet.

To that end, Al tried to get Steve to give up the map pages from the local phone book ...

... 'S_teve said [*NB: I've decided that henceforth Steve's name should be spelled with an apostrophe-S ('S) at the beginning so that we fully understand his "what's yours is mine, and what's mine is mine" attitude*] that those pages were too valuable for him to give away for that end (a bit

retentive, are we?).

Now, there's the spirit of "Christian" giving of a Congregationalist; and, this is from the guy who received a JLO printer i/f for free!

Better to receive than give?

Downers Grove, June 13, '92

I'm always intrigued to read recent/current issues of the QUANTA newsletter even though I am no longer a member of that organization.

Eros Forenzi (June 1992) said that his "new Gold Card is an Issue two (RED circuit board), with version 2.28 firmware." He can input:

    POKE 114796,0   <ENTER>

to boost his 16 Mhz Gold Card's timing to a blistering 24 Mhz.

While this speed up has a negative effect on the NETwork capabilities, the "important" I/O functions seem to be okay:

    Disk & SER1/SER2.

Eros claims an approximate speed up of 8x (vs. 4x to 6x) of his TRUMP card.

Neil Jackson (June 1992) says:

> *I think that now the QL market has weeded out most of the bad companies. The one(s) left are those that are dedicated and provide the correct service.*

So! The QUANTAryan Editor(ial Board) seems to feel that if they espouse a right-minded attitude that the membership will believe that their intent is for the common good.

Is this part of a big lie?

Act one way, but espouse what you think will appease the masses.

What a "mother-" country!

3 Another interesting editorial

inclusion during the past six months was penned by John Mason (Feb 1992):

> As regards the question of what should a Newsletter Editor do if he received a letter making a complaint against a_ firm which he might, at the time, be associated -- surely this is covered by standard ethical practice which would require him to temporarily hand over the Editorship to the Committee so as to assure that Quanta could not be accused of showing bias in handling the complaint.
>
> I hope & trust that ALL QUANTA MEMBERS are conscious that continuance of the QL scene -- whatever their QL may be -- is dependent upon continued mutual confidence between End Users and Traders.

Ah, what grand pronouncements.

And, while these are certainly the words of an individual member of QUANTA, one would suppose (lacking a disclaimer) that this is also the unofficial **QUANTARYAN** stance.

Yet one must certainly read hypocrisy in this inclusion by the the current QUANTA Editor (perhaps, he was not privy to what has transpired over the past year). Further, we should rail at the apparent hypocrisy of ANY-AND-ALL of the Editors who have undertaken a conspiracy of silence in the matter of the mis-handling of the QUANTA library in North America.

It was (and, is) NOT my intent to undermine the confidence of the QL users in North America or elsewhere by disclosing the uneven distribution policy of the current sub-Librarian in North America.

Reality may change with perception, but the facts are the facts.

Apparently QUANTA has chosen to officially ignore the rather sticky matter of the two-tiered pricing of the QUANTA library which occurred in the past by directing their only "official" representative in the Western Hemisphere (Paul Holmgren, the North American sub-Librarian) to ignore the issue by not responding to me.

A subtle change may be noted by yet remaining QUANTA members whereby sub-Librarians are now referred to as "Authorized sub-Librarians" [as if to imply that there have been (or, are?)] un-Authorized QUANTA sub-Librarians.

Where are the ethics that QUANTA would like to hold so dear? Don't they apply to those outside the UK?

Some have said that this is not a matter which concerns them; but, with QUANTA being the major organization supporting the QL user (Sinclairist?), one would hope that their activity would be beyond reproach.

It is not.

Because NESQLUG is an official sub-Group of QUANTA, shouldn't they be more concerned than they apparently are? Should we suppose that NESQLUG is as complicit in this conspiracy of silence as T/SNUG has chosen to be?

Because T/SNUG is captained by 2068 users, we might dismiss their laissez-faire attitude toward something related to the abominable QL.

Are memories at T/SNUG so short that they have forgotten that their "charter" is directly due to failure of "another" group to properly service the North American community?

For that matter, wasn't NESQLUG formed because The Boston Computer Society was no longer servicing their needs?

I am NOT calling for an overthrow of QUANTA despite the

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fact that organizations exist in the non-English part of Europe (e.g., IFE) which seem to be more dynamic in aiding their membership.

I would like to think that I am suggesting an open accountability on the part of QUANTA and its Board.

I would like to think that blind allegiance to a group because they are perceived as being the:
  "only game/forum in town"; or,
  "largest in the country/world" ends when that group no longer services its membership.

There are certainly those who would like to sweep this situation under the rug.

So be it.

But, let me extend a little wisdom to those who would like to do so:

> **Sweeping dirt under a rug simply leaves you with a lumpy rug; and worse, the rug fibers deteriorate more quickly so that sooner than later there is no rug.**

In other news:
'S_teve was amazed to hear about **"sea moss"** chips being used in computers. 'S_teve was familiar with using silicon based chips, but **"sea moss"** was definitely "news" to him. Of course, what really amazed 'S_teve was hearing that a **"sea moss"** chip generally has both a higher speed capability and lower power consumption level [should we tell 'S_teve it is because of the on-going photosynthesis that occurs?].

What will they use (think of) next?

Table for Two? CATUG hopes to "share" a table with T/SNUG at the DAYTONFEST. How does that sound to you, Don?

That's all the news that isn't.

Al Feng, Secretary
Chicago Area Timex Users Group

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NEWS ITEMS

The DMA ComputerFest in Dayton is scheduled for August 29 and 30 with a cut-off date for flee market tables of June 30. See UPDATE magazine for details.

INPUT/OUTPUT

Jay Shepard writes (on BBS): Z-88 - Dave Bennett has been most helpful and giving. He really gave me a boost. He started by showing me the way to be able to archive my work with 2068 and disc drive storage using the Z-88 as a BBS on my desk. Since he uses a PC for his archive work, he had no idea he was answering my question, but since he was doing it with a QL by null modem I knew I could do the same with the TS2068 if I was persistent.

I told him what I had for extras, which included 32K of RAM. So, he sent me a PC 5 1/4 disc with a whole bunch of utilities including the modem SW. It's on a PC floppy because one of the add-ons is a LINK program. for PC, MAC or Apple. Like that's all you'd want to link with. Well, his disc was written with a 286 machine and you're nobody now unless you have 386 so that was my first search. $15 later I had found an office product house that had some rental machines that were 286ers, then I found out after I successfully got it loaded that the modem program wouldn't RUN unless I had 128K of room. Dave forgot to mention that. Then I found out the local library has a 286 machine I could and will use for free. That's what you get when you're in a hurry.

I researched our trades and found an ad in UPDATE! for MACRO systems in Salt Lake that had an 800 number and I'll soon have my 128K. The expansion is nothing more than a simple circuit board that looks as a bare board very much like a TS2068 dock board a single chip

and a TMS27C256-2J which is 32K x 8 CMOS EPROM. They are housed in molded plastic and key into the Z-88 to line up the traces, so easy to copy, eh? That chip sells for a price of $6.25 in DigiKey and the dealers get $45.00 for a 32K RAM. I'm paying $75 for the 128K RAM.

GATOR's TWISTED PAIR

!!! R E M E M B E R !!!
We now have a 24 hour BBS and encourage you to exchange mail and contribute to the Download Section. Use it and have fun!

The board has become semi-private at this time. Please call Bob Swoger at 708/576-8068 for information as to how to log on.

Bob Swoger, SYSOP
Chicago Area Timex Users Group

ITEMS FOR SALE THROUGH THE CLUB

It has come to our attention that some LarKen Users are using something less than Version 3 firmware. The club will supply updated EPROMs, SYSTEM DISKS, and MANUALS for just $5 which includes shipping and handling, free if ordered with LogiCall or Spectrum ROM.

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If you are a LarKen LK-DOS owner and would like a SPECTRUM V2 kit for your system we will supply an EPROM, socket and 74HCT32 for $12 which includes shipping and handling. The install instructions are in your LarKen manual. We shall not be responsible for your install job. AERCO owners need only the SPECTRUM EPROM for $10 $10 is forwarded to LarKen.

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If you have a mismatch between you LarKen DOS EPROM and your Western Digital Controller chip, we will send you the correct one for free on behalf of our friends Rod Gowen of RMG and Larry Kenny of LarKen. You should be using L3 EPROMs with WD1770 controller chips or L3F EPROMs with WD1772 controller

chips. Check it out! Call in requests to Bob Swoger at W708-576-8068 H708-837-7957

SPECIAL DEALS AND BUYS

NAP_Ware (Nazir A. Pashtoon's new endeavor) announces the availability of all Timex or QL PAL (Programmable Array Logic) chips. If interested, call him evenings on 708-439-1679.

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LogiCall Integrated Software Ensemble easy operating system for LKDOS in both TS2068 and Spectrum modes includes LogiCall 4.8 TASWORD TWO V2.7, VU-CALC V1.3, VU-FILE and MTERM2 Drivers modified for LogiCall, DISKS.B1 TAPES.B1 steprt.B1 HEADER.BT (tape header reader by Nazir Pashtoon) FORMAT.B_ MOVE.BL and more all on 2 SSDD disks for $5. You must specify your LK-DOS EPROM version. If you already have a copy you are encouraged to distribute copies to other LarKen LK-DOS users for as you see by the price we are not in the business of making money on it, just making LarKen's LK-DOS even better!

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So you like to fly? The 747 Flight Simulator for Spectrum by Derek Ashton of DACC sold over 40K copies in EUROPE. Requires Spectrum Emulator. At this time supplied on LarKen SSDD disk only for $10 which goes to Derek Ashton, now working at MOTOROLA with Bob Swoger. Call in requests to Bob at W708-576-8068 H708-837-7957

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Want to try MS-DOS first before you switch? Try QLuMSi DOS, the MS-DOS SIMULATOR on your QL first.
QLuMSi (disk/specify) $15

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Try Al's Side-Kick on your QL. It is an Auxiliary Operating System (AOS) like LogiCall and can make your life on the QL a lot easier [you may never lust for MS-DOS again!]
QLUSTer (disk/specify) $10
CALL: Al Feng H(708) 971-0495

ARTICLES

USE LESS RAM BY TYPING MORE
by
Bob Swoger

Don Lambert wrote me a letter and stated that being a less experienced programmer he could not understand why I used statements with VAL and CODE in them.

The answer, Don, is to save program space. Just a couple of bytes saved can sometimes save a whole disk track of 5090 bytes!

One of my favorite examples is Larry Kenny opening up channel 4 to access his LKDOS because PRINT # 4 is easier to type [*less key strokes*] than RAND USR 100". [*page 11 of his V3 manual*] Also, he told me it takes up less RAM space in a program. Well, LARRY, it can USE UP MORE RAM space! The problem I have is channel 4 is also assigned to my ZEBRA Talker and I can't change that.

Consider a short program to load LogiCall. Get in front of your machine and do the following:

Turn on your TS2068 and type PRINT FREE <ENTER> . You get 38652. This is our free RAM space. Now enter the two lines:

```
 10 RANDOMIZE USE 100: OPEN #4,
"dd"
 20 PRINT #4: LOAD "L.B1"
```

Now type PRINT FREE <ENTER> . You get 38600. Strange, 29 keystrokes used up 52 bytes!

Now EDIT the lines and put VAL with quotes around the 100 and the 4s. The program now reads:

```
 10 RANDOMIZE USE VAL"100": OPEN
# VAL"4", "dd"
 20 PRINT # VAL"4": LOAD "L.B1"
```

Now type PRINT FREE <ENTER> . You get 38609. Strange, you just added 9 keystrokes to the program and gained 9 bytes of RAM!

Now lets try the ultimate RAM saving trick. Most numbers over 31 can be expressed in the

program as CODE. Let's change VAL"100" to CODE"d" , do you follow me, Don? It is on page 242 in the TS2068 manual. The program now reads:

```
 10 RANDOMIZE USE CODE"d": OPEN #
VAL"4", "dd"
 20 PRINT # VAL"4": LOAD "L.B1"
```

Now type PRINT FREE <ENTER> . You get 38611. Losing the two zeros bought us two bytes. Notice that the following statements all mean the same thing.

```
 RANDOMIZE USR 100
 RANDOMIZE USR VAL "100"
 RANDOMIZE USR CODE "d"
```

But what about OPENing channel 4 to save RAM space. Type in the program:

```
 10 LET h=CODE "d"
 20 RANDOMIZE USR h: LOAD "L.B1"
```

Now type PRINT FREE <ENTER> . You get 38624.

Both programs will LOAD LogiCall but the channel 4 call uses 41 bytes while the USR call uses only 28. Also, for the record, RAND USR h is six bytes shorter than PRINT # 4 and just as easy to type,

SO WHY OPEN CHANNEL 4?

BI-COL TIP
By Al Feng

Okay, somehow this got omitted from a previous issue. It wasn't meant as a tease, and I am sorry for the inconvenience.

If the idea of bi-columnar output appeals to you, then you have probably investigated the excellent BI-COLumnar program [Mike Padlipsky & Peter Hale] from the NESQLUG group.

The authors have chosen not to include version numbers, so catch-as-catch-can. The most reliable version of the program seems to be the most recent (?) which is available from NESQLUG (yes, you can get a copy from CATUG).

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The BI-COL program allows you to output a '_lis' file either directly to your printer (with a single font choice), or you can create a '_col' file for use in another program.

I prefer creating a '_col' file because then_ I can use more than one text font.

Because the '_col' file output does NOT maintain spaces between the columns, your text will appear as a single block. This means that you will have to go through and separate the two columns you have created.

This is not hard to do, but it is visually taxing.

To assist you in "finding" the columnar break [attention -- this is the "tip" for which you've been waiting] you should create your '_lis' file with the text margin set at '4' or '5' prior to creation.

Does that make sense?

So instead of having a Quill text that looks like this:

```
....:....1....:....2.
'S_teve   was   amazed
about "sea moss" ch
used in computers.  '
familiar  with  using
based chips, but "sea
definitely  "news" to
```

You will have text that looks like this:

```
....:....1....:....2.....
   'S_teve   was   amazed
   about "sea moss" ch
   used in computers.  '
   familiar  with  using
   based chips, but "sea
   definitely  "news" to
```

This will give you separation of four spaces on about 90% of the text (use more/less as your needs dictate) which should make the final editing process easier.

HAPPY TRAILS,
AND COMPUTING, TO YOU!

ADS

WANTED: ON 920509
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
TRACTOR AND/OR ROLL PAPER
UNIT(S) FOR MANNESMANN TALLY
MT160 PRINTER.   ALSO,   ANY
INFORMATION ON THE RC ALLEN (BY
LITTON WESTREX) PRINTER MODEL
NO.88802-112_
D. G. Smith, R.415 Stone St.,
Johnstown, PA 15906

FOR SALE: ON 920309
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
GETTING   RID   OF   EXCESS
EQUIPMENT, HARDWARE, SOFTWARE,
BOOKS, ETC. FOR BOTH TS1000 AND
TS2068. SEND FOR LIST.
WILLIAM VOLK, 6015 CARTER AVE,
BALTIMORE, MD 21214
          H301-254-8258

FOR SALE: ON 920509
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
LOCAL   COMPUTER GROUP GETTING
RID   OF   EXCESS   EQUIPMENT,
HARDWARE, SOFTWARE, BOOKS, ETC.
T/S USER'S GROUP, P.O.BOX 614,
Johnstown, PA 15907

FOR SALE: ON 920102
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
TS2068 WITH:
   SPECTRUM ROM SWITCH
   MECHANICAL KEYBOARD
   RESET SWITCH
   SPEAKER ON/OFF SWITCH
AMPEX COMPOSITE COLOR Monitor
JLO FDD System with:
   780K Disk Drive cased with:
   power supply
Centronic Printer Interface
TS2040 Printer
Wico Trackball
TS2050 modems (4)
EPROM cards one with Mterm II
Joysticks (2)
Timex and Spectrum commercial
            programs 300+
Disk Drive DSDD 5.25 flaky
Disk Drive DSQD 3.5 flaky
     Gary Lessenberry
     12 Alleghany Road
     Havelock, NC 28532
     919-444-3895

FOR SALE: ON 911010
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
CoCo 1 W/64K AND PRO KYBRD .$20
J&M Controller $65
Dual TEAC Disk Drives $80
Joysticks $10
The whole package with software
and manuals: $125
CALL TONY SOKOL   H708-428-4058

FOR SALE: ON 911025
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
I have a Sinclair ZX81 with
64K Memotech RAM,   enhanced
keyboard and 300 baud Byte-Back
modem. I also have a TS2068
with modem,   printer,   and
Spectrum cartridge, along with
a dozen old programs from
Quicksilva and the like, for
both machines. Both are   in
working order and excellent
condition. Make an offer on the
whole kit and kaboodle.
Peter Paglia, 8802 Partridge
Run, Chapel Hill NC 27516

FOR SALE: ON 911015
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
QL Complete System $80
Gold Card for the QL $500
Call Frank Davis H317-473-8031

FOR SALE: ON 911015
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
For the AMIGA 500:
Platinum Scribble.......... $40
Deluxe Paint............... $25
Walt Armstrong   H407-433-8822

FOR SALE: ON 910912
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
4 - 256K 80 nS SIMMS   IBM TYPE
         1 MEGABYTE TOTAL
     $15/ea or $50 for all 4
Call MIKE WARNS
W708-982-2107   H708-627-9561

FOR SALE: ON 910426
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
COLOR COMPUTER 3 - DISK DRIVE
CM-8 COLOR MONITOR W/PLATFORM
SMITH CORONA   TP-1   PRINTER
JOYSTICK AND 1 DOZ BLANK DISKS
SOFTWARE INCLUDES DESK   MATE
HOME PUBLISHER $400 OR BEST
312-337-3624